

Veterans Affairs Committee
REGULAR MEETING
June 20, 2016

PRESENT: W. Willinsky, R. Cote, P. DeRing, T. Dickerson; W. Petras, F. Hutchings, J. Sterry

ABSENT: R. Farrington , K. Burke,

OTHERS PRESENT: S. Bransfield (First Selectwoman)

1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman W. Willinsky called the REGULAR meeting to order at 1835 at the American Legion Hall, located at 12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

So moved.

4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES

J. Sterry made a motion, seconded by T. Dickerson to accept the minutes from the May 16th, 2016 meeting. All were in favor.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to pass.

6. VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT (J. Sterry)

Nothing to pass.

7. VETERANS BENEFITS & INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT (P. DeRing)

Nothing to pass.

8. COMMISSION ADVISOR'S REPORT (R. Farrington)

Not present.

9. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to pass.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Petras is taking on a leadership role in the Patriot Guard riders as the Assistant State Captain. He provided some dates of interest:

9/23/16 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the State VA

10/18/16 – Vietnam 50th Wartime Ceremony in Rocky Hill

11/6/16 – Hartford Veterans Parade

11/11/16 – Veteran's Ceremony

11/30/16 – Veteran's Hall of Fame

12/17/16 – Wreathes Across America

Wreathes Across America will be 12/17/16. Last year, even with the town purchasing \$1500 worth of wreathes, there were still veterans' graves without wreathes at the state cemetery in

Middletown. This year they are looking to increase the number of wreathes to put one on every veteran's grave. It was suggested that maybe this year we could increase the amount to \$2000. All present were in favor of this, however, as it would come out of the FY16/17 budget, we would have to wait until the fall to vote on recommending the purchase of wreathes.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

May 18th, the Portland Garden clubs planted the flowers around Veteran's Memorial Park. There was a moment of silence for Fran Schoel.

May 21st, the new names were added to the Veteran's Wall.

May 21st, volunteers helped put flags on the veterans' graves. (Over 600 flags.)

May 23rd – There was a ceremony at the Portland High School placing 65 flags around the traffic circle for the 65 Connecticut residents killed in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A VAC member received a phone call from a Mr. Robert Wildermuth who was interested in doing something positive for the VAC. He offered to host a picnic for them and possible spend some time at a camp in Colchester.

S. Bransfield thanked the VAC for a nice Memorial Day Parade and especially for Daniel M. Clark, "The Singing Trooper."

She said that she expected the American Legion Color guard to be in the town's 175th Anniversary parade in September.

Maybe we could also bring Daniel M. Clark, "The Singing Trooper" back to town for a fund raiser.

12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

S. Petras made a motion, seconded by W. Willinsky to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1910. The next Regular meeting is scheduled for September 19th, 2016 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary